



Pedro Nava

Assembly Member

REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35



www.asm.ca.gov/nava

MAY 2009

I want to express my deep gratitude to the thousands of fire personnel, law enforcement officers, and volunteers who kept us safe, protected our neighborhoods, and provided services for those in need during the recent Jesusita fire. With the evacuation of over 30,000 residents, complete with family pets and large animals, our community came together and lent a helping hand to our friends and neighbors in need.

Our thoughts are with those who have had their homes destroyed or damaged as they begin the recovery and rebuilding process. A special thanks to the Santa Barbara Humane Society and County Animal Services for their assistance in housing all the evacuated pets, and to the American Red Cross for providing shelter for evacuees in need.

The California Department of Insurance will be hosting an Insurance Recovery Forum for Santa Barbara Area Fire Survivors on June 2nd, at 7:00pm at the Westside Community Center Auditorium on 423 W. Victoria Street in Santa Barbara. For information on how you can help the recovery efforts, please visit www.sbredcross.org. For information on rebuilding and recovery, visit the County's website at <http://www.countyofsb.org/recovery/default.aspx?id=5248>

Junior Leagues of California's State Public Affairs Committee Honors Assemblymember Pedro Nava as Legislator of the Year 2009

Sacramento –Assemblymember Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara) was named honored by the State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) of the Junior Leagues of California as the SPAC 2009 Legislator of the Year.



Assemblymember Pedro Nava accepts the Legislator of the Year Award (from L to R) Wendy Penbera, Valerie Tyler, Britt Bowe, and Mariaelena Welch of the State Public Affairs Committee.

"We are honoring Assemblymember Nava for his work to improve the lives of women throughout California, and his tireless efforts so far this year with the Healthy Mother's Act, AB 159. Assemblymember Nava recognized the importance of this measure for all women and their families. We are very pleased that he chose to take on this measure," said Wendy J. Penbera, Chair of the State Public Affairs Committee, Junior Leagues of California.

Said Assemblymember Nava, "I am humbled to receive this award from SPAC of the Junior Leagues of California on behalf of my efforts of this very serious and real issue for women and their families," said Nava. "Many people have been and will continue to work very hard to get AB 159 to the Governor's desk. New mothers and their babies deserve the best help we can offer."

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Assembly Bill 159 asks the California Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish a Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder (PMAD) Task Force to develop a best practices model for public awareness and to issue recommendations for educational materials for the Department's perinatal health programs. The Task Force may undertake public education activities related to the disorder to raise awareness for both healthcare professionals and for pregnant women, new mothers, and their families. The measure is currently awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Perinatal mood and anxiety disorders occur during pregnancy as well as during the postpartum period. These disorders can take many forms, including depression, anxiety disorders, and psychosis. The afflictions can have potentially serious repercussions for the emotional, social, and physical health and well-being of mothers, children, and families. National studies indicate that 10% to 20% of women suffer from perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and the majority of these women go undiagnosed and untreated.

The State Public Affairs Committee of the Junior Leagues of California has represented the interests of its 12,000 women members in 16 communities across California, including Valerie Tyler and Anna Gibbs from Junior League of Santa Barbara (JLSB). Each Junior League is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

In Santa Barbara, the JLSB's flags decorated State Street from May 6 - 15, 2009, creating awareness for a local non-profit serving Santa Barbara since 1925. The JLSB has over 400 members.

In 2006 the JLSB identified Improving Youth Literacy as an unmet need in the Santa Barbara community and as our new focus area. JLSB is now working with the Santa Barbara Public Library to renovate the lower level of the central library into a new children's library. The entire lower level of the central library will be allocated to a new children's space, doubled to over 6,000 square feet and will include craft areas, multimedia zones and enhanced programming. The project supports the JLSB focus on improving youth literacy in our community.

For more information about the Junior League of Santa Barbara visit www.jlsantabarbara.org.

Assemblymember Pedro Nava Selects Visual Concepts, LLC. as 35th District Small Business of the Year

Oxnard – In late May, Assemblymember Pedro Nava will be honoring his 35th Assembly District Business of the Year, Visual Concepts, LLC., of Oxnard and its President Cece Alemania and Priscilla Rouse Becker, Chief Executive and founder of the company for their success and contributions to the business community at a ceremony in Sacramento sponsored by the California Small Business Association.

"Priscilla Rouse Becker and Cece Alemania have set an exemplary standard for local businesses through their innovation, drive, commitment to their employees and customers, and involvement in the community," said Nava. "Small businesses will be the driving force in our economic recovery, and I am proud to recognize such role models in business."

Visual Concepts, LLC, founded in 1994, by Ms. Becker, its Chief Executive, is a rapidly growing information technology services company based in Oxnard, with 25 employees. It was recently awarded a \$29 million contract to provide technical support for the Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Port Hueneme, a branch of the Navy responsible for handling real estate assets.

Watch for a full report of the awards ceremony and more information on these outstanding small business owners in next month's ENews.

Assemblymember Nava and Harriet Salarno, Chair of Crime Victims United, Commemorate 2009 Crime Victims Rights Week

This Op-Ed ran in newspapers across the state to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week at the end of April.

The last week of April marks National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Approximately 200,000 Californians are victims of violent crimes annually – horrific disruptions that change the lives of victims and their families forever. On Wednesday April 29, Crime Victims United of California in conjunction with the California Correctional Peace Officers Association hosted a March on the Capitol in Sacramento. This yearly event is a moving affair which draws victims from all over the State as they join together to remind California's public officials they will not be forgotten and to advocate for public safety to be considered the State's top priority.

Organizations such as Crime Victims United of California are dedicated to educating public officials about the importance of public safety and the impacts of crime upon the citizens they represent. Rallies, vigils, and events being held around California this week and beyond provide venues where victims and those who support victims can find support and solidarity, ensuring that their voices are heard around the State and nation about the impact of crime on their lives and the importance of public officials taking action to resolve these issues. For more information about how you can help or events that are being held in your area, please visit www.crimevictimsunited.com.



April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month as part of a statewide effort to recognize and honor victims of sexual assault. Many of us know a family member, a loved one or a friend that has been sexually assaulted. There are more than 9,000 sexual assaults reported in California annually, and many more are committed without the perpetrator being brought to justice. The saddest truth of these crimes is that the victims are disproportionately children. In fact, one in 10 girls and women will be victimized by age 23. One in 18 boys and men will be victimized by the same age. It is tragic that we really do not know the full extent of sexual assault, as many of these crimes go unreported. Victims can feel humiliated or embarrassed and simply never file a police report. Many people never even tell their friends or family about their experience.

We encourage victims of all crimes to come forward. If you know of a victim who has not reported a crime, please encourage them to do so. This is the first step in the process of realizing justice and helping the victim deal with ramifications of trauma. By remaining silent, the offender can not be brought to justice, and the victim may be denied the support she/he needs at a most critical time.

The California Legislature is currently considering legislation to toughen the laws pertaining to sexually violent predators and more. Legislative leaders and victims rights groups continue to try to close loopholes in State laws that allow offenders to remain free in our neighborhoods. It is important as this legislation is considered, that Californians come forward and be heard in Sacramento. For a list of pending bills or to participate in the process, please visit www.assembly.ca.gov/nava or www.crimevictimsunited.com.

Together we will make a difference.

Assemblymember Nava Holds Series of Hearings on the Collapse of Mortgage Lending Companies in California



Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Chair of the Assembly Banking & Finance Committee, is holding a series of public hearings looking into the collapse of mortgage lending companies. Recent news accounts have reported that public accountants may have had a serious role in that collapse. The first hearing, held on May 4th, brought together consumer advocates, public interest advocates, a former regulator and enforcement officer, and accounting experts, who explored the various aspects of the collapse.

"With the fallout felt in California from the economic crisis and meltdowns of the mortgage lending and financial markets, it is imperative that we find out how this happened and whether accountants had a role," said

Nava. "Not since the Great Depression have California families paid such an economic toll. The Legislature needs to fully explore what led to this collapse so that we can respond and act to help prevent it from ever occurring again."

Many mortgage companies sold subprime loans without verification of income and with no documentation. Essentially, they sold adjustable rate loans having no concern for ability to pay because they were betting that the housing market would go up and up and up with no decline in sight.

These companies then packaged these high risk loans and sold them as low risk investment products. Many pensions invested in these products and billions of worker pension dollars have been lost. The subsequent economic collapse has been devastating.

The hearings on this issue will question mortgage and accounting experts to find out how these loans were valued on the balance sheets of these companies, and how the accountants never sounded the alarm that these investment products were extremely risky.

The burst of the housing bubble and subsequent collapse began here in California. We have to fully dig in to learn the specifics of what happened and why. To learn the lessons of this collapse, we have to first learn how we got here.

Assemblymember Nava Joins Ron Cottingham, President of Peace Officers Research Association of CA, in Memorializing Fallen California Peace Officers

This article ran in newspapers across the state earlier this month, to remind the public to commemorate the lives of our fallen Peace Officers.

If our home alarm goes off, if our car is broken into, or worse if we should ever find ourselves the victim of a violent crime, it is a person in uniform who is called in to investigate the crime and protect the public. The sense of security this provides all of us is one of tremendous merit and value.

With this editorial, we ask that Californians consider the 90,000 men and women in uniform and appreciate the critical work they do and the risks they take. We invite you to join the peace officers from all over California who on May 7th and May 8th, will come to Sacramento to pay tribute to their fallen colleagues.

Every 53 hours in America, a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty. As of March 2009, 1524 California peace officers lost their lives while doing their jobs to protect the public. This is the second highest number in the country.

Each of these slain officers got up every day, buttoned their uniforms with pride, courage and determination to make our communities better places to live and raise a family. They looked after the safety and well being of each of us, our children and parents. They themselves had families, who also wore their own uniform of courage. The families of these peace officers understood the sacred duty their loved ones embraced. They too made the greatest sacrifice.

Whenever an officer is killed, fellow officers wear a black band on their badge. With this black band the officers feel a bond with their fallen comrades. This band symbolizes the mourning, respect, and honor for the fallen officer. Knowing the risk they undertake, peace officers continue in their jobs every day and put themselves in harm's way in the preservation of public peace. Californians must never forget this greatest form of public service and that these officers deserve our utmost appreciation.



Each year in May, we come together at the California Peace Officer Memorial in Sacramento to pay our respects to the fallen officers and their families. This yearly event is a moving affair which draws the law enforcement family from all over California as we join together to pay tribute.

This year's Formal Enrollment Ceremony, where we will honor the fallen officers, will begin with the 'Walk of Honor' from the State Capitol to the Memorial in Capitol Park. The ceremony concludes with a 21-gun salute, taps, and retiring of the colors.

Please visit www.camemorial.org to support the memorial and to learn more about the memorial ceremonies scheduled for May 7th and May 8th in Sacramento.

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